Amendments to the Specification:

On page 5, lines 15-28, please replace with the following paragraph:

In FIG. 1, a cash control system of the present invention includes a safe assembly 3a, a central control unit 25, an off-site cash information server 31 and a communication network 21. The safe assembly 3a is configured to receive cash and track the cash received. One such example of a safe assembly is described in United States Patent Number 6,067,530, [filed] issued May 23, 2000, the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference herein. In one embodiment, the cash control system includes additional safe assemblies 3b-3n. In this embodiment, the safe assemblies are numerous and dispersed throughout a business establishment, e.g., a convenience store. The business establishment includes one or more cash registers. In one embodiment, a cash register is coupled to a safe assembly or provided next to a safe assembly. Each safe assembly is coupled to the communication network 21.

On pages 11, line 31 through page 12, line 7, please replace with the following paragraph:

The safe controller also includes a [processor 31] processor 32. The processor or micro-controller is configured to identify the cash information provided by the cash reader. For example, the processor receives cash information from the cash reader via the local interface and transmits the cash information to the central control unit. [The processor 31] The processor 32 also monitors the condition of the safe. For

example, the processor identifies when the safe is opened and closed or when an error or problem occurs in a cash reader and transmits this information to the central control unit 25 (FIG. 1).